

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Planning and Building	(2) MEETING DATE 7/9/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE James Caruso, Senior Planner\805 781-5702	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a grant agreement (Clerk's File) for \$638,152 with the California Energy Commission for funding of a Renewable Energy Streamlining Program that will encourage development of renewable energy resources. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve and instruct the Chairman to sign the attached agreement with the California Energy Commission for a Renewable Energy and Conservation Planning Grant.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) California Energy Commission Grant	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$638,152 - grant total \$109,552 – for staff \$528,600 – for consultant	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { } Consent { } Presentation { } Hearing (Time Est. ____) {X} Board Business (Time Est. <u>30 min</u>)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions { } Contracts { } Ordinances { } N/A {X} Grant Agreement			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: { } 4/5th's Vote Required { } N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { } N/A Date: <u>4-23-13</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Reviewed by Leslie Brown			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Planning and Building / James Caruso, Senior Planner

VIA: Ellen Carroll, Planning Manager, Environmental Coordinator

DATE: 7/9/2013

SUBJECT: Request to approve a grant agreement (Clerk's File) for \$638,152 with the California Energy Commission for funding of a Renewable Energy Streamlining Program that will encourage development of renewable energy resources. All Districts

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve and instruct the Chairman to sign the attached agreement with the California Energy Commission for a Renewable Energy and Conservation Planning Grant.

DISCUSSION

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has awarded the County a Renewable Energy and Conservation Planning Grant of \$638,152 to fund a Renewable Energy Streamlining Program. Your Board adopted a resolution supporting the grant application on April 23, 2013. This grant program was open to just 15 California counties that are specifically named in the program legislation. The County was not originally an eligible jurisdiction for this grant funding; however, the County and the County's lobbyist successfully worked with Assemblyman Achadjian to get the County included in the grant program through special legislation.

This grant will allow the County, with the assistance of a consultant, to revise its policies, combining designations and ordinances to streamline development of renewable energy projects in areas of the county that meet selected criteria. The grant program also includes preparation of an EIR that evaluates specific areas proposed for a new Renewable Energy (RE) combining designation based on mapping of resources, infrastructure and constraints. This will assist future applicants with a more streamlined environmental review of specific renewable energy projects.

The Grant Agreement in Attachment 1 is a contract between the County and the CEC to administer the Renewable Energy Streamlining Program grant totaling \$638,162. The funding will reimburse both County staff and consultant work on the grant activities. No matching County funds are required.

The agreement identifies the parameters of the grant funding, reporting requirements, budget reallocations and contracting requirements. Once this agreement is approved by both the CEC and the County, work on the grant is reimbursable. The grant agreement time period will run from June 30, 2013 to March 31, 2015.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued. The next step will be to bring a consultant contract to your Board. This should occur in July or August 2013. A budget adjustment will be also brought to your Board at that time.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The Department of Planning and Building has primary responsibility for the grant administration and will conduct the bulk of the work with consultant assistance. The Department will work closely with the County's Energy Community of Interest (EnergyCOI). The Agriculture Department will provide input into the streamlining effort as much of the land that will be considered for streamlined processing is currently designated Agriculture. The grant agreement was reviewed and approved by County Counsel for legal form and effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

No local match is required for this grant. In addition, the total amount of the grant covers both County staff costs and consultant costs. Of the total \$638,152 grant, approximately \$528,000 will be used to cover consultant costs and the remaining \$109,552 is available to cover staff costs. The exact amounts needed for consultant services and staff costs will be known once an agreement is reached with the selected consultant. A budget adjustment reflecting these amounts will be brought to your Board for approval along with the consultant contract, in the next month or two. This is a reimbursable grant that will require the County to expend project funds up-front and invoice for reimbursement from the CEC.

RESULTS

This grant will enable the adoption of streamlined County policies, regulations and processes that encourage renewable energy development, in particular, small to mid-scale solar and wind energy projects. This effort is consistent with Goal E.1 of the Conservation and Open Space Element which states: The County will have an environmentally sustainable supply of energy for all county residents and Goal E.6. which states: The use of renewable energy resources will be increased. The proposal will also be of use as a pilot to other county land use jurisdictions that may wish to streamline renewable energy development.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Grant Agreement (Clerk's File)